

Administrator,

Next week we're implementing an employee's good idea and convening a Harvest Fest to show our appreciation for our ORD employees in DC. Fall-themed treats will be served and costumes are welcome.

Hot issues

Draft PM ISA transmitted to CASAC and Publicly Posted

The draft Integrated Science Assessment for Particulate Matter (PM ISA) was transmitted to the Designated Federal Officer of the Science Advisory Board's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) for external peer-review. The official Charge to CASAC, including questions for CASAC to consider in their review of the PM ISA, will follow. The FRN was posted on October 23rd, 2018.

ORD to brief HHS on Salisbury UK nerve agent response

HHS's Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Robert Kadlec, has requested a briefing on Nov. 1 by ORD on our observations of the UK's response to the nerve agent attack in Salisbury, UK. Russian double agent Sergi Skripal and his daughter were poisoned by military grade nerve agent, novichok, in Salisbury, UK in March 2018. Although it is believed that only a small amount of the nerve agent was placed on Skripals' front door, the agent was spread to several other locations across the town by the Skripals and subsequently by the emergency response personnel. Once the agent was confirmed to be novichok, the UK Department of the Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) began immediately assessing the need to decontaminate suspected areas. DEFRA invited ORD researchers to observe on-going response and remediation activities.

SBIR Company Wins State Award

EPA SBIR Phase II company, Precision Combustion, Inc. (PCI) was recognized by Marcum Tech Top 40 as Connecticut's Fastest Growing Company in the Energy, Environment & Green Technology category. PCI is a clean energy technology company developing and manufacturing catalytic [[HYPERLINK "https://precision-combustion.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f564c3ce54a887790114a591e&id=d633feaa9e&e=79d79b0619"](https://precision-combustion.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f564c3ce54a887790114a591e&id=d633feaa9e&e=79d79b0619)] for energy sector applications. PCI's rapid growth has been driven by innovations in multiple fields, including [[HYPERLINK "https://precision-combustion.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f564c3ce54a887790114a591e&id=31482847ae&e=79d79b0619"](https://precision-combustion.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f564c3ce54a887790114a591e&id=31482847ae&e=79d79b0619)] and [[HYPERLINK "https://precision-combustion.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f564c3ce54a887790114a591e&id=fcfeb8877c&e=79d79b0619"](https://precision-combustion.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f564c3ce54a887790114a591e&id=fcfeb8877c&e=79d79b0619)], [[HYPERLINK "https://precision-combustion.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f564c3ce54a887790114a591e&id=1639d92d6b&e=79d79b0619"](https://precision-combustion.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f564c3ce54a887790114a591e&id=1639d92d6b&e=79d79b0619)], high performance [[HYPERLINK "https://precision-combustion.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f564c3ce54a887790114a591e&id=be3542437c&e=79d79b0619"](https://precision-combustion.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f564c3ce54a887790114a591e&id=be3542437c&e=79d79b0619)] and [[HYPERLINK "https://precision-combustion.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f564c3ce54a887790114a591e&id=8bd569c7fa&e=79d79b0619"](https://precision-combustion.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f564c3ce54a887790114a591e&id=8bd569c7fa&e=79d79b0619)], new materials and specialty chemical reactor systems. The Marcum Tech Top 40 recognizes the 40 fastest growing technology companies in Connecticut based on revenue growth over the past four years, and selects overall winners in six categories. EPA's SBIR Program supports small businesses to develop and commercialize novel environmental technologies.

Discussions with water technology company related to PFAS treatment, October 19

ORD participated in a call with representatives from [[HYPERLINK "http://www.evoqua.com/en"](http://www.evoqua.com/en)] to discuss collaboration opportunities on treatment systems for PFAS. Evoqua is interested in engaging with EPA to share drinking water treatment data, test air emissions at sites where their treatment systems are operating, and evaluate the efficiencies and releases from their granular activated carbon reactivation efforts.

Technical assistance to Idaho Department of Environmental Quality on lead and water quality

On October 22, ORD participated in a call with representatives from Idaho DEQ to address technical questions regarding public water systems using sodium hypochlorite, chemical impacts to water quality related to lead release, and potential impacts associated with the Lead and Copper Rule.

Oil Expert Supports EPA and the U.S. Department of Justice on Active Litigation

On Oct. 22 ORD provided expert testimony for the U.S. Department of Justice on behalf of EPA in a significant oil spill trial, US v. HVI Cat Canyon. ORD's testimony on the ecotoxicological impacts from crude oil and produced water at four oil spills near Santa Maria, California, was based on four years of study, several field visits, and a deposition based on an expert report. Region 9 sent a note of appreciation to ORD, noting that the preparation and presentation of a conceptual model diagram of the pathways for ecologic impacts was particularly useful.

Upcoming Major Decisions and events

Ozone ISA Workshop

October 29th – November 5th, ORD will host the “Workshop to Review Initial Draft Materials for the Ozone Integrated Science Assessment (ISA) for Health and Welfare Effects” to solicit input from subject matter experts on early draft materials of the Ozone ISA prior to public release of the draft document. The workshop is organized into four teleconferences: Ecology and Climate (October 29, 2018), Epidemiology/Exposure science (October 31, 2018), Toxicology and Controlled Human Exposure (November 1, 2018) and Atmospheric Science (November 5, 2018). The workshop is open to the public and registration is found here: [[HYPERLINK "https://epa-naaqs-isa-ozone.eventbrite.com"](https://epa-naaqs-isa-ozone.eventbrite.com)].